## THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE (ESTABLISHED 1877.)

TO CARE FOR HIS WHO HAS DORNE THE BATTLE, AND FOR HIR WIDOW AND ORPHANS." ASHAHAM LINCOLN. THE VALIDITY OF THE PUBLIC SENT OF THE UNITED ETATES, AUTHORIZED BY LAW, INCLUDING DEGTS INCURRED FOR PAYMENT OF PENSIONS AND ROUNTIES FOR SERVICES IN SUP- The Soldier's Year-Let Us Have a Soldier PRESENC INSURRECTION OF RESELUCIA, SHALL NOT BE QUES-TRINES. .. SEC. 4, ART. XIV. CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED

"I CONSUMER IT THE ADLEST PAPER DEVOTED TO THE INTER"

FETA OF THE COLDIER PUBLISHED IN THE COUNTRY. TEARNESTLY COMMEND IT TO ALL COMMADES OF THE CHUER, PAUL VANDERVOORT COMMODERN CHER. G. A. R.

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less period received. ESTERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION - INVAHIABLY CASH ADVANCE. - MONEY FORMANDED CTHERMISE THAN BY REGIS-TERES LETTER, POSTAL NOTES, POSTAL MONEY OFFICE, DE DREET ON NEW YORK, WILL BE AT THE RIER OF THE SEADER, AS ALSO ALL SURSCRIPTIONS PAID TO AGENTS

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GIVE THEIR CLO AS WELL AS NEW ADDRESS FROM EVERY SECTION IN REGARD TO ALL GRAND ARMY, PERSON, MILITARY, AURICULTURAL, INDUSTRIAL, MID HOUSEHOLD WAT-

DETEN AS DETIRED, BUT BULLCRIBERS SHOULD IN ALL CASES

TERE, AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR WILL ALWAYS SECSIVE PROMET ATTENTION. WRITE ON ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER

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a club of ten new subscribers to THE TRIBUNE we will present a new Waterbury watch, inclosed in a handsome satin-lined case, and warranted to keep accurate

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## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

scipt of the subscription price.

Bhy special date.

the members.

1. THE NATIONAL TRUSCRE employs no agents. It has many volunteer convassers, and they are generally honest and faithful; but persons who confide their subscriptions to them must be their own judges of their responsibility, THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE will only be sent on re-

open argumts whatever. The low price at which it is furnished renders it necessary that its management should be on a cush basis. Orders not accompanied with each will receive no attention. 3. In renewing, subscribers should be careful to

specify any corrections or changes they desire made in name or address. Always give the old as well ses the new address. 4. Persons who receive sample copies of THE NATIONAL TERRINE should see to it that they reach

turge them to do so at once 5. We do not return communications or manu-

THE meeting of the pension committee of the Grand Army, which was to have been held in this city on Monday last, has been postponed for a short time, owing to previous engagements on the part of some of

THE number of pension certificates issued and signed during the week ending February 23, 1884, were as follows: Original, 563; duplicate, 24; arrears, 0; accrued pensions, 18; pensions under act of March 3, 1883, their bright eyes sparkle, to feel their lov-41: total, 708.

THE attention of our comrades of the Grand Army is directed to the appeal for aid contained in the letter of Assistant Adjutant-General Daniels, of West Virginia, printed on our sixth page. West Virginia, as well as Ohio, Kentucky and Illinois, it should be remembered, was ravaged by the

General House for a report of the growth of repeat the sacrifices of their sires? Surely similar claims, the importance of the com- validity of these claims, since any restricthe Department of Indiana during the past | if there is anywhere to be found a guaran- mittee's action will be readily apprehended. | tion of that character might prove equivalent year, from which it appears that the num- tee that in the years to come the Republic The Government has displayed an unparal- to repudiation. Upon legal grounds, there- G. K. Warren Post, No. 16, Ft. Buford, D. T. 500 disease in the service, impartial justice des gain of 148-and the membership from touching revelation of the fidelity with antagonists, but it has not yet come to the to impose such a limitation as Mr. Mach 6,088 to 13,124 comrades-a gain of 7,036, or | which the spirit which animated our veter- point of indemnifying them for the losses | proposes. more than one hundred per cent. It goes and is reproduced in their children. The hey sustained in their struggle to over- But the fact is that the right of the soldier

could not have been accomplished without a great deal of hard work on the part of our Indiana comrades, and they are to be congratulated on the substantial fruits of their

Candidate!

This is the soldier's year. Slandered, abused, neglected, despised though he be at all other times and seasons, this year the soldier cannot be ignored. For it is the year of a presidential election, and it is the soldier who holds the balance of power-one million honest, unimpeachable votes, upon the cast-Six months, 75 cents. No subscription for a ing of which the issue of the election will hang. Think of it, soldiers! In spite of the insults which press and politician have heaped upon you, in spite of the trickery and deceit of which you have been the victims, in spite of your own subserviency to party AT THE MUMBER ON THE WHATER OF THEIR PAPER, WHICH IS and lack of independence, this magnificent opportunity is still within your grasp. Prove yourselves equal to the occasion

Within the next four months both political CONCERNOENCE, CORRESPONDENCES SOLICITES parties will hold their nominating conventions at Chicago. It rests with you to say who shall be the delegates to these conventions and what their choice shall be. You FE-ADVERTISING RATES .- ORDINARY ADVERTISING, can accomplish little by the passage of reso-50 cents for Adams une; Reading Notices, 75 cents lutions; to make your influence practically felt you must exercise it at the township IMPERITIONS, 15 SER CENT.; THERTEEN INSCRIPONE, 20 PER and ward primaries and at the county and State conventions. You must enter person-ADDRESSES WANTED-20 cents FER LINE; THREE ally into the canvass, and make sure that every soldier's vote and the vote of every THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, friend of the soldier is polled for a soldier's candidate. It is well enough to talk of the wonders you are going to accomplish at the polls next November; it is none the less true that it is at the primaries that the real battle will be fought out, and it is there that you must marshal your forces. You cannot afford to leave anything to chance, and to make assurance doubly sure you must see to it that your delegates go pledged to To any person who will send us vote first, last and all the time for a soldier! It matters not whether in national polities you are Republicans or Democrats; as soldiers, it is your duty to exert your influence within party lines for the nomination of a soldier. It will be time enough for you to decide whether you will sacrifice your po-1st Page. - Gen. O. O. Howard's Reminiscences of litical preferences to your regard for the general welfare of the soldier, when the conventions shall have made their nominations and the issue shall have been defined. Until then the thing of vital concern is to secure -The Gray and the Blue; A Sunday Dinner at | such a soldier representation in these conventions that the politicians will not dare to

Ah, soldiers, the time has come at last when we no longer can afford to trust to empty promises. We must work out our own salvation. We have seen how year after year these promises turn to dust in ling an Artist's Only Pupil .- Our Rural Top- our hands, and the makers laugh at our gullibility. They have come to believe tenant slow's Regiment.—Up the Red River (continued from 1st page).—Chicago the Place and July the 8th the Date of the Democratic and they scoff at the idea that we have that they can play us false with impunity, this case; and-4th Page.-Editorials: The Soldiers' Year; Let pluck enough to enforce our rights at the polls. Entreaties, demands, threats, all are alike useless now; there is nothing left but action, and to action-united, resolute and fearless-we must now address ourselves-We are not so helpless or friendless as they would believe. There is not a community in the whole North and West where we 7th Page. Fighting Them Over: The Regulars | cannot make our influence felt if we but Getty-burg-The Union Artillery at Gettys- show our colors and sound the advance. Every patriotic citizen in the land will rally to our standard, and the politicians who now affect to believe that the soldier is "played out" will be only too glad to fall in

Fall in, then, soldiers, and let us all take a hand in the campaign. We shall not lack for leaders when the time comes, and the 8th Page.-Gen. Howard's Reminisceners (con- day that witnesses the assertion of the soldier's influence at Chicago will assure to us the full recognition of our rights by Congress and Executive.

Worthy of Their Sires. to the effect and the necessary postage, and under How intensely patriotic they are! They seizure of the cotton in question was un is no barren fact of history to them, but a by the committee, therefore, is thatgreat reality, coloring all their impressions and shaping their sentiments and opinions. Young as they are they comprehend its meaning and feel the stimulus of its heroic examples. How cheering it must be to the veteran as his children gather around his knee and he retells for them the story of the camp and march and battlefield, to see ing arms close about his neck, and to know that though by others he may be forgetten his valor will always have a shrine in their fond and faithful hearts! And is it of no consequence to the Nation that in thousands of soldiers' homes all over the land the grand the plastic minds of the rising generation and that thus early the sacred fires of pat- bill be indefinitely postponed. riotism are being kindled in the breasts of

nations of the old world, the shifting forces labor may yet precipitate some new and now unexpected crisis in the life of the Nation, but so long as there exists in this country that element of unquestioning loyalty, devotion, and self-sacrifice which ever since the Revolution has come to the front when occasion demanded, none need despair of the Republic. The lad who from his father's lips learns the story of the Saving of the Nation will not fail of his duty when his country calls.

One of Lincoln's Christmas Presents. Among President Lincoln's Christmas presents, in the year 1864, as doubtless many of our veterans will remember, was one from a certain General Wm. T. Sherman, who about that time, having completed his march through Georgia to the sea, turned up at the city of Savannah, and thoughtfully placed it at the disposal of the Executive to

be served up with his plum pudding. The prize that thus fell into our hands consisted, in part, of some 1,650 bales of cotton, the property of the Georgia State government and valued at from \$350,000 to \$500,000,-quite a nice little sugar plum, in fact. That was almost twenty years ago, and at the time the State of Georgia, being prone on its belly, so to speak, did not presume to question the regularity of the transaction. It appears, however, from a report that has just been submitted to the Senate from the Committee on Claims by General Manderson, of Nebraska, that in Georgia, as in poetry, "hope springs eternal in the human breast," and that the government of that Commonwealth has at this late day decided to lay claim to this confiscated cotton and demand a determination of its title by the Court of Claims. This modest request takes the form of a bill (S. 601) to remove in this particular case the limitation imposed by law as to the time of making application to the court, and the reasons which the agent of the State urges in its support are, as the committee incidentally remark in their report, truly ingenious. They all rest upon the assumption that the property rights of a State in revolt-a belligerent-are identical with those of a private individual, and they are in substance

1. That under the confiscation act no confiscation of property could take place except in pursuance of a legal judgment [Supreme Court decision], and it is admitted that there was none in this case; and-

2. That upon the execution of such a judgment, and the covering of the proceeds into the U.S. Treasury, no change of ownership could take place, but, on the contrary, they were required to be held in trust for those who might afterwards be recognized as the legal owners [another Supreme Court decision], which also has not been done in

3. That by reason of the general amnesty granted in the proclamation of December 25, 1864, previous disloyalty is no bar to the claim of the original owners to the proceeds [another Supreme Court decision];

4. That as there was no legal State government in Georgia, with capacity to sue, presented, had expired-

to have access to the Court of Claims for the per are the extraordinary recommendations proving of her claim, the question at issue contained in the report of Chief Mack, of being whether the United States did act- the Eastern Division of the Pension Office, to ually and legally, not rightfully, confiscate | Commissioner Dudley, and printed with the

argument consists in the falsity of the major | is another which is even more pernicions. premise, namely, that the rights of the State | We quote from Mr. Mack's report: and the individual are one and the same, and the Senate committee have been prompt to detect it. When the State of Georgia not sustained by record. It is true that occasions If any one is still under the delusion that passed the ordinance of secession and resistthe sons and daughters of our veterans are ed the authority of the Federal Government able evidence can be obtained by any method, all "grown up," let him turn to the column | with force of arms, its attitude at once be-2. THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE does not keep any of children's letters which we print on our came that of an active belligerent, and ren- the circumstances were not so unusual as to impress second page this week. What a delightful dered it liable to be treated as such; and, glimpse they afford of the soldier's family as it is a well-settled maxim of international circle! How sad, too, sometimes, are their law that "one belligerent has the right to send us the label on the last paper received, and revelations! And then the questions they deprive the other of everything which ask-what a bump of inquisitiveness they might add to his strength and enable him have, and yet how eager they are to confide to carry on hostilities"-and certainly no one all their secrets to The TRIBUNE! No one will dispute the fact that it was by the those who will be likely to subscribe for it, and can read their artless letters without feeling sale of cotton, carried abroad by blockade that in these young correspondents there is runners, that the Confederate government scripts maless they are accompanied by a request the making of good women and brave men. managed to obtain the sinews of war-the are so proud of the fact that "father" served questionably a lawful act of war, and an in the army, and they know in just what actual change of ownership occurred immebattle it was that he received his wound diately upon its passing into the Government's possession. The conclusion reached

The United States did take and appropriate 1864, as it might legally do, and did confiscate the property of this State, then in armed rebellion, so ollowed; no condemnation proceedings in court or elsewhere were necessary. Possession was all sion was taken and held. It follows, then, that the United States when it sold the cotton and turned its own property into money.

Therefore, there is no trustceship-no accounts. Georgia been in position to bring suit in the Court of Claims within the "two years after the supprestained her action. In this view of the case, the ommittee do not deem it necessary to consider nte of limitations, except to say that the proposition of claimant is one of the most remarkable that has come under its observation. Your committee, therefore, recommend that the

without saying, that this splendid result | influx of heterogeneous elements from the | throw the Union, and Senator Manderson's | to present parole evidence in support of his sound and able opinion will be heartily inof politics, and the changing conditions of dorsed not only by every ex-soldier, but by every patriotic citizen in the country.

Let Us Have a Vote On It!

Among the pension and bounty measures

introduced during the present session of Congress, there is at least one as to the merits of which our Senators and Representatives cannot plead ignorance, and upon which it is not possible for any commission to throw additional light. We refer to the equilization of bounties bill, which, although it once received the assent of both houses, has failed as yet to become a law. The principle involved in this bill is so simple that even a child can comprehend it. Take the ease of two soldiers who enlist from the same town, in the same company, and for the same period of service. By the terms of the bounty law, each is to receive \$200 United States bounty at the expiration of two years of active service. One of them serves the prescribed period and receives the full amount of bounty due him; the other, at the end of twenty-three months, is pronounced unfit for duty, by reason of disability, and is discharged the service without a cent of bounty. Now, what justice is there in that? Is not the soldier who serves twenty-three months and then, through no fault of his own, but simply because the Government has no further use for him, is honorably discharged, as much entitled to bounty for twenty-three months as the other soldier to bounty for twenty-four? If he is, then this unpaid bounty constitutes a debt which the Government ought to discharge, no matter how many years have elapsed since it was incurred. As a matter of fact, the records of the War Office show that thousands of brave and deserving men were thus deprived of the bounty promised by the Government, and it is this shameful injustice that it is the purpose of the equalization of bounties bill to repair. A proposition so simple and straightforward as this, ought not, it seems to us, to require any argument to commend it to the support of men of ordinary intelligence and judgment, and there is no valid reason why it should not be promptly reported from the Pension Committees of both houses and put upon its passage. Some of our Senators and Representatives may imagine that because their predecessors have neglected their duty in this matter they, too, can afford to shirk it, but they will find to their cost that our ex-soldiers are no longer to be put off with frivolons excuses, and will carry the issue to the polls. They have not forgotten the prophetic words of Oliver P. Morton, Indiana's intrepid war governor, who, from his seat in the Senate, thus invoked justice for Mr. President, Justice the soldier cannot al-

ways be deferred. It must and will triumph sometime. If it does not come this Congress it will come at some other Congress. It is a part of the war debt, as much so as the 5-20 bonds or the 10-40 bonds. It is founded on the same principle of justice. It is an obligation resting upon this Nation, and if it takes \$20,009,000 or \$50,000,000 an make no difference. t is a debt this Nation honestly owes and ought to be paid. In other words, let the bounty be equalized; put all honorably-discharged soldiers upon the same basis; pay them at the same rate. They are entitled to it. The justice of it no man can dispute, and that is all that this bill contemplates. I am for it. I vote for it with all my heart.

A Cool Proposition. Elsewhere, in our columns, will be found prior to August 20, 1868, when the two the fourth of the very interesting series of years from the close of the war, within articles on pensions, prepared especially for which period claims were required to be THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE by Senator Ingalls, of Kansas, and it will be noticed that Therefore, the State of Georgia ought now among the matters discussed in this last palatter's last annual report. Startling, how-Of course the sophistry of this line of ever, as are those to which he refers, there

I am of the opinion that a limitation should be provided (say 1886 or 1887), after which parole evidence should not be accepted to establish claims cases would arise when a just claim would be defeated, but I can scarcely imagine one where relitwenty or twenty-five years after the event upon which the testimony is supposed to be based, where the fact upon the witnesses' minds.

Leaving out of the question, for the moment, the practical injury which such a limitation would work to the interests of our veterans, let us see whether there is any legal warrant for it. As we understand it, there is nothing in the contract between the Government and the soldier which requires the latter to present his claim to pension within any given period. On the contrary, by the very terms of the contract, the Government confesses its obligation to pension every soldier who was actually disabled in its service whenever he may see fit to present his claim. He stands upon precisely the same footing, in that respect, as the bondholder. The latter the cotton of the State of Georgia in December, might not present his bond for redemption for years after it had been called in if he effectualy that a complete change of ownership chose, yet his failure to do so would not affect in the slightest degree the obligation that was required, and claimants show that posses- on the part of the Government to pay the principal of the bond when presented. Any the money into its trensury was simply converting other view of the case would be absurd. The Government, no more than the individual. bility to a cestul que trust. Even had the State of can legally alter a contract after the other party to it has fulfilled its conditions. To sion of the rebellion," she could not have main- do that would be nothing more nor less than repudiation-the height of public as the question of the removal of the bar of the stat- well as private dishonor. But if the Government is thus estopped from setting a lessons of the war are being impressed on stiempts to take advantage of a party's own wrong limit as to the time within which its creditors must present their claims, it follows as a necessary consequence that it is also When it is remembered that this is only debarred from setting a limit to the period WE are indebted to Assistant Adjutant- those who may some day be called upon to one-the entering wedge-of hundreds of within which it will receive evidence of the ber of Posts has increased from 155 to 303- will never lack for defenders, it lies in this leled leniency in its treatment of its late fore, the Government would have no right

claim to pension cannot be taken away from him under any circumstances without vitiating the contract. When this contract was entered into it was not stipulated that the Government's records should be the sole evidence of his right to pension; had such been the understanding it is safe to say that the men who, rather than incur the reproach of being "hospital bummers," despite their sufferings from disease, remained at their posts and did their duty, would not thus have jeopardized their claim to the care and support which the Government had so eagerly promised then. Nor is it true, as Mr. Mack alleges, that this parole evidencethe testimony of comrades to events in regard to which the official records are silentis no longer worthy of credence. Frail though the memory of our ex-soldiers as to other matters may be, it is still keen and retentive as to everything that pertains to the struggle in which they risked their lives. If any mistake has been committed in the adjudication of pension claims by the Pension Office in the past, it has consisted in the failure to estimate this evidence at its proper value, and in cases where the Government

records afforded neither corroboration nor refutation, in refusing to give the soldier the benefit of the doubt. But even if it were true-if so many years had elapsed since the war that the comrades upon whose testimony applicants relied for the establishment of their claims could no longer remember the events of the oath to them-what every truly patriotic man would demand, would be, we are sure, that this great and prosperous Government, instead of taking advantage of the helplessness of our veterans, should waive its right to this evidence and voluntarily pension every soldier who was at the time actually disabled! That is what must and will be done at no distant day, and then how small and cheap will appear that policy which, at a time when nearly three hundred thousand and impoverished comrades to obtain the meager pittance that is due them! We shall have something further to say about this re- care. markable report by Mr. Mack-a report which is a disgrace to the author, and in direct antagonism to the printed sentiments

A New Dispensation.

Says Joaquin Miller, whose contemptible slanders of the soldier we had occasion to refute in our last issue: "To pension a soldier, even in a small way-and we have already pensioned most generously-is to add a premium for the worst that is in us.

Happy thought! Instead of doling out

pensions to the brave but erring men who foolishly responded to their country's call when the Union was at stake and for four long years risked their lives in its defense, let us lavish them on the men who had the courage to remain at home, or, lest they of the statute, to be a conclusive presumption might be compelled to take part in the ignoble strife, retired to Canada. Although twenty years have rolled away, the sublime fortitude which they displayed in declining so many tempting offers to enlist has not yet been forgotten. No inducement seemed sufficient to make them forego their conscientious scruples, and, even when a draft was finally ordered, they chose to hire substitutes rather than sacrifice their principles. While our veterans were hurrying to the field, impelled, of course, merely by the thirst for excitement, these lovers of peace were content to stay at home and pursue their usual avocations. Some of them, it is true, stretched their faith so far as to accept fat Government contracts, but they proved themselves consistent in their opposition to the war by turning out shoddy clothing and manufacturing powder and shell that wouldn't explode. Yes, we remember them well. How profound was their sympathy for the unfortunate slaveholder! How intense was their hatred of the Government because it would not allow the erring sisters to go in peace! How sure they were that secession would triumph, and how heartily they rejoiced at the announcement of a Confederate victory! So earnest were they in their desire for peace that they organized the Kights of the Golden Circle, and they were so greatly impressed by the injustice of the Government, in attempting to enforce the draft, that in the City of New York they resolved themselves into a mob and defied the authorities until the appearance of the Vermont brigade convinced them that Mr. Lincoln meant business. What was the name by which they were known in those days? "Copperheads," was it not? Ah, yes; let us pension the copperheads! Let us strike from the pension rolls the names of the three hundred thousand veterans that glitter there, and replace them with the names of the men who stood passively by and sneered at the defenders of the Nation! The former, it appears, are no longer a credit to the country. They are in rags and on crutches, deaf and blind, white-haired and wrinkled with age. They bear no resemblance to the passing regiments of twenty years ago-that stalwart line of blue that marched away with steady step to the music of the bands. The latter, on the other hand, sleck, fat and contented, are perfect pictures of prosperity. What a pity it is that the Government does not offer a pension for peace, instead of war!

DURING the past week we have received the following additional contributions to the Steedman fund:

W. G. Martin, Lee's Summit, Mo., Previously acknowledged .... .. 264 69

PENSION QUESTIONS.

resumption of Soundness-Prisoners' Pensions-Reforms Needed-Senator Ingalls' Views. No provision in the administration of our ension laws is more obnoxious and indefensible than that which requires the claimant to prove his soundness at the time of enlistment.

Physical health and strength, freedom from disease, capacity to endure the privations and hardships of military service, were indispensable conditions which the Government required to be conclusively established to the satisfaction of its officers before the volunteer, the obstitute or the conscript could be received to its armies.

For its own protection, to exclude the feeble, the maimed and the infirm, those whose vital forces had been impaired by disease or exhausted by excess, the soldier was compelled to submit to the most searching and rigid examination, which extended to the minutest details, and was conducted with slight regard No master ever scrutinized a slave upon the

for the delicacy or sensibility of the subject. block, no jockey ever tried a horse in the ring, with more persistent inquisition than the medical staff of the army inspected its recruits. The sight, the hearing, the teeth were examined. The chest was measured. The naked body was searched for scars and lesions. The aspirant for glory was ordered to bend, to walk, to run, to jump; he was interrogated as to his previous habits of life, and the longevity of his ncestors, as if he were an applicant for a lifeinsurance policy of a hundred thousand dellars, rather than a candidate for mutilation or death on the battlefield, at thirteen dollars a mouth.

No one complained of this rigorous inspection. It was just. Health, strength and soundness were indispensable. Invalids and cripples may be brave and patriotic, but they cannot endure the hunger, fatigue and exposure which are inseparable from war. It is doubtful whether the strongest and most robust of our volunteers-those who served throughout the war with sufficient distinctness to make entire war without any hospital record-did not suffer such loss of physical energy that the infirmities of age will fall more heavily upon them, and their span of life be shortened in

And it is this class of our veterans, most meritorious and deserving, who endured the casual ills of the march and camp without complaint or treatment, that is now confronted with almost insuperable obstacles in establishing claims for pension. When the disease, actually contracted by exposure, insufficient food and other privations, at last develops, after lying long dormant in the system, into rheumatism, paralysis, or degeneration of the pension claims are awaiting action, would heart, the applicant discovers that the want of make it still more difficult for our enfeebled record of treatment in hospital is practically a par to the allowance of his claim, especially if a considerable interval elapsed before he was

Instances, doubtless, occurred where men were mustered who were physically unsound; cases, perhaps, where the surgeons were deceived. Patriotism may have induced some of Commissioner Dudley-in a future issue. of our volunteers to conceal known infirmities. Pride may have led others to withhold infomation to which the Government was entitled, and which would have rendered them ineligible. But these must be few. The temptation to deceit was not overpowering. Most men would have preferred to disclose any reputable infirmity, rather than to become a burden to the great cause which all were anxious to

-It is incredible, therefore, that any consid-We should offer a pension for peace, not for erable number who were physically unfit could have entered the service; and it is contrary to good morals, it is opposed to justice, that after all these precautions the Government should be allowed to say to any disabled applicant for pension, that he was unsound when he enlisted. The Government, like an individual, should be estopped from denying the validity of the contract. The physical soundness of every enlisted man should be declared, by amendment in all cases of application for pension on the Alaska. In September she will return again ground of disability incurred in the service. In this connection also may be considered the proposition to place upon the rolls all those who, having enlisted in the regular or volunteer army or navy of the United States, served | crutches. three months or more, were honorably discharged, and are unable by reason of physical disability to carn their subsistence, and are dependent upon their own labor for support.

Those most competent to judge, affirm, as has been suggested above, that no soldier can serve | The Secretary of the Treasury has showed actively for any considerable time without such impairment of his powers that his strength will be undermined, so that he will be liable in later life to the access of disease, though external indications may have not previously

In such cases no proof can be offered that will meet the requirements of the law. There is no medical history. The ailments of after years may not have been so serious as to call for active treatment; but strength gradually fails and continuous laber becomes impossible. The veteran cannot dig, to beg he is ashamed. to its commercial interests, and those of He may have family ties which render it un- the country generally, emphasized by the desirable for him to seek the refuge of the asylum which the Nation provides for the old age in private life, has been the leader in

borne the battle for his country should be a mendicant, dependent upon alms, when age and helplessness have overtaken him. Benevolent patriotism might justly infer that his fertile Valley of the Mohawk is in danger of disabilities have resulted from his military drying up for the same reason. It seems to be service, without insisting upon the strict letter generally admitted that the floods in the

The measure to pension the ex-Union prisoners of war, on the basis of duration of confinement, without other-proof of disability, stands upon the same ground of justice as the preceding proposition, and deserves prompt and favorable consideration.

The memory of the flendish and revolting atrocities of Libby, Castie Thunder, Salisbary, and Andersonville has faded from the minds of men, the cruel story has become a horrible tradition to the present generation; but it cannot be recalled without undying execra- crumb of bread when one man's ambition for tion, so long as history shall endure.

The policy of the Government upon the subect of exchanges of prisoners was adopted after mature deliberation. It was one of the harsh necessities of war. But it condemned many Union soldiers to the most agonizing death, and thousand of others to suffering and torture, compared to which death would have been the tenderest mercy. The survivors | Chicago and started on their last earthly jourhave a special claim upon the Government for recognition, and should all be placed upon the rolls, without regard to disability and without demand for other evidence than that of imprisonment. Whatever of cost might be added would be gladly paid by a grateful people.

fits of the pension laws should not also be extended to scouts, to militia acting under orders of general officers, and to the employees of the Opartermaster - General's Department. The claims of State militia, originally recognized, are now excluded by an unjust limitation which should be removed. Scouts, teamsters, and other non-enlisted men often performed exceedingly arduous and very meritorious service. While their pay was larger, they frequently were exposed to greater danger and Robert Anderson Post, No. 32, York, Neb ... \$2 66 privation. If they were disabled by wounds or mands that they should be treated like those with whom they shared the perils of camp and

accompanying the annual report of the Com- tou.

missioner of Pensions, that the rates of pension require immediate and vigorous readjustment. The two hundred and odd thousand pensioners are distributed into one hundred and twenty grades, varying from one dollar to one hundred dollars per month. More than one-half the entire list receives but eight dollars, or less, per month Two receive one deliar and eightyseven cents per month, while nearly twentythree thousand receive two dollars per month. or thirteen cents additional! Three hundred and twenty-three receive three dollars and seventy-five cents, while more than fifty-three thousand draw four dollars! Eleven receive five-dollars and seventy-five cents, while thirty thousand receive six dollars! Nine receive seven dollars and seventy-five cents, while thirty-one thousand receive eight dollars! One is rated at two dollars and seventeen cents per month, while nine, by some mysterious and inexplicable method of computation, appear to have been injured eight cents worth more; and receive two dollars and twenty-five cents. per month. The chief of the eastern division, in his subsidiary report, suggests, with mild but significant sarcasm, that "the allowance of pension for scratches" should be prohibited by law, from which it might she inferred that scratches are now regarded as a pensionable disability! He further intimates that where persons are receiving, in the same neighborood, severally from four to twenty-four dollars per month, some method should be devised by which the difference in disability could be detected by their friends. This candid chief continues, by observing that soldiers are just as good and just as bad as other people, and that the temptation to swear to "imaginary facts," whatever these may ounder existing practices, is wholly demoralizing. He concludes his commentary on the administration of the office by the startling suggestion that greater caution is necessary in placing invalids on the olls, because the death rate is so small among hose who are there already! Whether the ommissioner concurs in the views expressed by his subordinate, or whether they escaped his attention, is not disclosed, but enough appears to leave no doubt that reform is demanded, not only in rates and grades, but in

> JOHN J. INGALLS. GOTHAM CHAT. About Men and Things.

NEW YORK, February 28. I met Emory Storrs to-day, that versatile lawyer-humorist of Chicago. Said he: "We are going to have an act of Congress passed making Chicago the convention capital, where in the future all the national conventions must be

the methods of adjudication.

Then he went to talking polities, but I must not tell what he said, because that is not our compelled to place himself under a physician's field. I will, however, report some of his caustic satire on the meeting of the "300," held here the other day, who came together in solemn conclave to advise the Republican party. Said he: "You know it has nothing in common with these scholastic politicians. The gathering, however, was a business meeting entirely. It was to advertise these gentlemen, with a view to higher prices for compaign speeches next fall. I am never with these eople, because I am always for somebody. They are always simply opposed to some one. The man never lived who could secure their ananimous indorsement. Take Wayne Me-Veagh. He is for himself for President. If some other man should join him and offer a resolution to indorse their candidate, McVeagh would bolt the party and leave the other man

> Mr. Storrs tells me he is thinking seriously of removing to New York within a year to engage in the practice of his profession. He will thrive wherever he goes.

> I learn that Mrs. Langtry netted \$16,000 for her work at Niblo's for the week ending February 16. After her engagement at Philadelohia she goes to Chicago. Then she rests two weeks and sails for home in May by the steamer by the same steamer.

General Grant was able to drive out, for the first time since his accident, on Washington's birthday. He is obliged still to walk with

New York business men are very uneasy on account of the danger of a drain of gold to Europe. One of the Seligmans told me Saturday that he thought \$20,000,000 would go this spring to settle the balance of trade against us. panicky symptoms in asking the associated anks to allow the Government to settle its salances of the clearing-house in silver. This rally was what created more distrust than anything that had actually happened. The Clearing House Association replied that thirty days' notice must be given. The trouble is that while silver as well as gold is a legal tender here, in Europe the standard dollar must stand on its own bottom simply as so much metal, and should the Government stop paying out gold, the banks would have to stand the drain alone.

The city has been stirred to an unusual degree by the apprehension of a disaster devastating floods of the Ohio. Dr. Ferthe movement. He has so far succeeded as to It is not seemly that the citizen who has have a large meeting at Delmonico's to consider what steps should be taken to check the destruction of the Adirondack forests. It appears that already the water supply of the Erie Canal has fallen off from this cause, and the spring, and the drouth which succeeds as the natural consequence of the waste of the water, arise from the stripping of the land of its forests.

> Washington's Birthday was the scene of a grand and solemn pageant. The ill-fated Da Long and his companions were brought home from the ice-wilderness of Siberia to the city they left five years ago. sunny day, and a hundred thousand people thronged the streets to see the long line of hearses pass. What a mockery must the scene have been to poor Mrs. De Long! All this pomp and powder here on Broadway, yes human energy could not give her husband a notoriety had sent him and his comrades on a foolhardy errand in the face of the immutable elements of the universe.

> Jerome J. Collins' last religious service before be left was to attend the dedication ceremonies at Fifth Avenue Cathedral. His pull was brought there Saturday, and the solemn requiem mass was sung in his memory. Then his remains were placed on board the City of nev for rest, after thousands of miles of wanderings, under the sod of his native Ireland.

Five years ago I bade him good-bye in the City of Mexico, full of life and hope. We gave him a dinner at the grand old Hotel de Iturbide, at which Congressman Finerty, then a correspondent of the Chicago Times; Congress-No sound reason can be given why the beneman Denster, of Milwaukee, then known as the editor of a German paper of his city, and twenty or thirty more were present. Nugent Robinson, the gifted editor of Mes. Frank Leslie's many publications, presided, and there was no end of toasts and complimentary speeches and drinking of healths, never to be forgotten, because it all ended in the death of our friend.

I hear that Dr. Collins, of Minneapolis, insists that he will have the investigation of the Jeannette expedition all reopened. He thinks Melville failed to do his ducy. I sigh " cui bono," but then I am not the dead man's brother.

Appletons are about to put out a seasonable book. It is to be called "Hand-Book of Tree-Planting." It is from the pen of Nathaniel H. Ecleston, chief of the Forestry Division It is evident, from an inspection of the tables of the Department of Agriculture, at Wash-